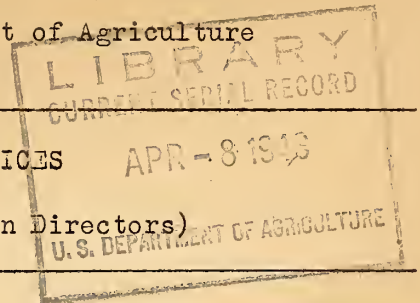


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)



Summary No. 39

January 2, 1943

DELAWARE

December 1, 1942

Income tax. - New service to farmers of individual and group assistance in filing income-tax reports, and adoption of accounting systems that will simplify this problem.

Farm labor. - 20 percent of all local labor lost to Selective Service and industry since 1940, preliminary analysis of 800 questionnaires in survey conducted with help of neighborhood volunteer system indicates. At a conference with State supervisor of Farm Placement Service plans made for program-planning conference, to be largely made up of farmers. At this conference a definite program for meeting the 1943 farm labor situation will be decided upon. Extension will be responsible for conducting all farm-labor surveys and informational programs.

KANSAS

December 12, 1942

Poultry-meat program. - 5 point plan for efficient operation of this war-time job includes:

1. Increasing production of baby chicks by hatcheries during fall and winter months.
 2. Adopting management program to meet cold-weather production problems.
 3. Feeding to utilize feed wheat and soybean oil meal.
 4. Reducing mortality through disease control.
 5. Making use of existing equipment and facilities.
- All hatcheries in State reached and list of available fall and winter chicks prepared. Kansas hatcheries produced over 49 million chicks first 10 months of 1942, 21 percent more than in same period last year.

Poultry marketing. - In anticipation of price ceilings and regulations extension economist in marketing recommended to Kansas Poultry Institute at their fall meeting in Topeka serious consideration of marketing their products on basis of Federal grades.

Farm labor. - Student help obtained in feed harvest. General plan, although it varies from community to community, includes -

1. Excusing boys from classes on Thursday noon. This gave a long-week end for sustained labor until Sunday night.
2. Excusing boys from school at any time farmers might request help.

3. Organizing groups of 15 boys sent to farms, in charge of a school instructor, to aid in harvesting feed upon request.

4. Obtaining large numbers of student for farm help for Saturdays and Sundays only.

Dairy. - Many herds dispersed, particularly in fluid-milk areas where need for milk has increased. Labor problem largely reason for recent sales. Some cows sold have gone to other farms, some to slaughter. Ceiling price on fluid milk in several cities and in many smaller towns has led producers for these markets to change from fluid milk to a market for cheese, condensed and powdered milk, and even to butterfat market in some cases.

Certified seed. - Farmers who compared yields from northern-grown certified Irish-potato seed and commercial seed report certified seed yielded 25 to 30 bushels more to acre and quality of potatoes was superior. And the certified "spuds" will stand storage better.

Flaxseed treatment. - Farmers report that treatment of flaxseed with new improved ceresan in spring of 1942 resulted in better stand, healthier plants, and increased yields.

KENTUCKY

December 15, 1942

Farm machinery. - To help solve farm-labor problem more effective use of farm machinery is one plan to be used. Farmers will be helped in working out the exchanging, lending, and hiring of machinery. Balers, ensilage cutters, and combines may be used for whole neighborhoods.

Farm labor. - One tenant farmer unable to get field help hired a housekeeper for his three small children so that his wife could help him get the work done. She drove the tractor. Three horses for a two-horse grain drill speeded up seeding for another farmer. On many farms 14- and 15-year old boys are driving tractors or combines, when combining wheat or beans. Small farmers in many sections are offering their services to large operators.

Homemakers' clubs. - Centrally located meeting places helping to keep homemakers clubs going despite gas rationing. Ride-sharing clubs common. Some members come by wagon, others by horse and buggy. But they get there. Hundreds of pounds of fats collected by club members in salvage campaign.

4-H. - Plan to enroll 200,000 boys and girls to aid in production of food and aid in farm labor. Rural nonfarm boys and girls not situated so they can produce food, will be eligible to 4-H membership by doing 150 hours of labor on a farm or in a farm home.

Dairy. - Some large-scale dairymen have had to curtail number of dairy cattle while those on small farms find they can care for more cows with their present family-labor supply.

-3-

MINNESOTA

December 15, 1942

Farm machinery. - Labor-saving equipment campaign swinging into action, county and community demonstrations scheduled. Farm-machinery conservation-day meetings scheduled in trade centers.

Hemp. - Wartime production in Minnesota covered in current information letter, to county agents add AAA fieldmen. Pamphlet to be published for use of contract hemp growers. Government offering contracts for 60,000 acres of hemp for fiber.

Conservation. - Meetings called by war board's to consider AAA conservation programs as related to war-crop needs. County agents participated locally; members of State staff worked with AAA, FCA, FSA, SCS, in presenting overall picture. Attendance good.

Victory garden. - Procedures being planned by State extension committee. Extension will take lead in calling State conference of interested agencies and organizations to map pattern for urban as well as rural gardens. General plan: Harness local groups, as well as overall State groups, in one large drive.

Foul seed. - Cooperating with State Department of Agriculture in campaign to get seeds cleaned and tested. 500 mats of official seed tag, with publicity materials, to go to every county newspaper in State. Editors being encouraged to print supplies of tags and promote them locally along with information on clean seed and State testing regulation.

Share-the-meat. - Extension in cooperation with OCD carried out State-wide program. State extension committee working on meat educational program geared to wartime situation.

Shearling pelts. - Minnesota will have 75 to 100 thousand pelts before winter is over.

NEW YORK

December 1942

Farm labor. - Estimated that some 3,000 city youth might be used in organized groups, and around 1,500 on individual farms in 1943.

Farm machinery. - State war board has set up committee to ration. Some quotas are rather small. Probably will be necessary to reserve a small supply in a State pool for emergencies.

Nutrition. - At request of State Office of War Nutrition Services, two foods and nutrition specialists prepared series of 6 lessons on feeding the industrial worker. Lessons will be used by War Nutrition Services and home demonstration agents. Over three-fourths of home demonstration counties now have trained local leaders prepared to instruct on use of protein foods other than meat. During November, 41 radio talks on foods and nutrition given over 19 stations by 16 agents.

-4-

Good-living program. - Emphasizing health, thrift, and happiness for all farm families. Spark-plugging the program is a Victory Circle Tour idea to have all farm families look over their fields and buildings to see what can be done in way of improvement. Prospectus of "tour" includes farm excursion, farm building trip, etc. to be sent all farm families on January 1. Believed this technique will encourage enrollment in good living.

Share-the meat. - Thousands of minutemen (neighborhood leaders) carrying information to rural families.

Black-out. - As result of early training of leaders in every county in the "know-how" of blacking out homes, county agents now looked to as information source. Agents have helped chambers of commerce, Red Cross organizations, and others in planning most effective way of blacking out rooms.

Clothing conservation. - Clothing specialists continuing training of leaders in remodeling and restyling garments and in mending. In Albany County leaders helped over 700 homemakers to learn mending of clothing and household fabrics.

OREGON

December 1, 1942

Neighborhood leaders. - Over 4,000 leaders attended training meetings throughout State during October and November and took up assignments on farm transportation, flour and bread enrichment, and fat and metal salvage. Those unable to attend reached personally by agents or community leaders.

Farm transportation. - Principal activity of farm transportation committees to date has been with Certificates of War Necessity for farm trucks and pickups. In all counties except one county agent serves as secretary to committee. County extension agents assisted with training of transportation committees and county USDA war board's assumed leadership in deciding on registration points, who would help, and provided office and clerical staff during registration.

Fire prevention. - Over 1,000 fire-control crews trained in cooperation with Forest Service, Grazing Service, State and county fire protective associations, and city fire chiefs. Estimated that rural fire crews helped control over 300 farm fires during 1942 season.

4-H Food -production clubs. - Special emphasis placed on organization of these clubs. Many counties also report organization of livestock clubs. As 1942 club year closed, thousands of 4-H members converted their profits into war bonds and stamps.

-5-

Home. - Preservation of family food supply emphasized during October and November, including canning, freezing, and drying. Revived interest in community and recreational gatherings because of travel situation. In addition to subject matter work, county home demonstration agents and specialists gave leadership and training in recreational activities. During these 2 months State and county home-economic staff, and project leaders trained by them, held over 1,000 meetings with over 23,000 in attendance.

PUERTO RICO
December 1, 1942

Meat conservation. - Salting, sun drying, and brining instruction given at 2-day training school in November to five home demonstration agents, five Farm Security agents, and one WPA representative.

Nutrition. - 2,800 children now getting milk daily, since 41 milk stations have been opened in the rural zone through efforts of home demonstration agents, OCD, and WPA.

Fertilizer. - Agents helped USDA war board in assisting farmers make applications for fertilizer.

Information. - Extension conducted 8 war board radio programs in November. 53 motion-picture showings made in same period to over 12,000.

